**Lifelong Learning with WRL**

It’s a new year and a new opportunity to become your best self -- and WRL can help. We offer a variety of online resources, all free to use with your library card, that can help you learn a new skill or take up a new hobby this year. Here’s to 2019 being a year of discovery, learning, and self-improvement!

**Lynda**
Learn business, software, technology, and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals with WRL’S subscription to Lynda.com. With dozens of online classes sorted by topic, software, and professional field, you can find what you need to brush up your skills or break into a new area.

**Universal Class**
From bartending to real estate to career training, Universal Class brings you lifelong learning courses in over 30 subject areas. More than 500 courses are available, and all are designed and led by professional instructors to build deeper understanding and mastery of subject matter.

**Creative Bug**
Improve your crafting skills or develop new ones with more than 1,000 award-winning art and craft video classes taught by recognized design experts and artists. This fantastic resource offers lessons on everything from knitting to paper crafts.

**Mango Languages**
Whether you are planning a trip to a foreign country or you want to give yourself a competitive edge in your career field, learning a new language is easier than ever with Mango. Browse courses in 77 languages, including English as a second language courses for 15 non-English languages.

**Kanopy**
In addition to hundreds of documentary, foreign, and art house films, Kanopy also offers dozens of educational and instructional videos available for streaming. Learn about everything from anthropology to food technology, all from the comfort of your living room.

**Get started today at www.wrl.org/lifelong-learning.**

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**Library Closings**

All WRL facilities will be closed Jan. 1 and Jan. 21. You can always find digital items to check out at www.wrl.org/digital.

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**Feel-Good Movies**

- **1/3** - My Favorite Year
- **1/10** - Strictly Ballroom
- **1/17** - That Thing You Do
- **1/24** - Field of Dreams
- **1/31** - Midnight in Paris

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON Film Series**

All programs begin at 2 p.m. in the Williamsburg Library Theatre. Find complete film descriptions on our calendar at www.wrl.org/events/films.

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**My Year of Raising Sheep**

Adult Services Librarian Jesse Kelley will discuss how he raised a small flock of Dorper Sheep in Norge, VA. Get to know the basics of flock management and learn more about raising these sometimes funny, always mischievous animals.

1/16, 2 p.m. at the Stryker Center

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**Talks@2**

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**Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation**

The Friends of WRL Foundation recently approved two grants to library staff for innovative and exciting programs:

- **Cena con Cuentos** (Dinner with Stories) is a bilingual program for families with pre-school-aged children whose native language is Spanish. The six-week series brings together families and library staff over dinner, followed by storytime and activities in Spanish and English. As participants become regular library users, they can help WRL spread the word to our local Spanish-speaking community about what the library has to offer.
- A new **Adult Winter Reading program** builds off the success of the WRL’s inaugural summer reading program for adults, also funded by the FWRLF. Encouraging adults to become part of our community of readers builds support for the library and enhances the quality of life in the greater Williamsburg area.

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Featured Events for Kids

Cabin Fever Carnival
1/18, 6:30-8 p.m.
James City County Library
Tired of being stuck indoors? It's a perfect time for a carnival! Join us for an after-hours family party at the library with homemade mini-golf, a Candyland cakewalk, giant Connect Four, Plush Pig races, crafts, and a magician.

Footsteps in History
1/19, 1 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Follow the footsteps of Native Americans, colonists, pirates, enslaved African Americans, abolitionists, teachers, crabbers, and space explorers as the fabulous puppets of Rainbow Puppets tell the fascinating history of the Virginia Peninsula.

Frederick Douglass: “On Slavery and Emancipation”
1/27, 2 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Frederick Douglass shares true tales of his life as a slave, his escape to freedom, and his rise as a great writer, orator, and abolitionist. He emphasizes the importance of reading and writing as well as learning history and developing a strong sense of civic responsibility.

Featured Events for Teens

Make a Mug
1/25, 2 p.m.
James City County Library
Create your own marbled mug with nail polish! Register at 757.259.4050; all supplies provided.

Dungeons & Dragons Day of Play
1/5, 12-4:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Multiple Dungeon Masters will be at the Williamsburg Library to lead games of D&D. Join others to play in a short campaign for ages 10-adult; register at 757.259.4050.

Teen Writing Lounge
1/13, 2-3:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Beginning and experienced writers ages 11-18 are invited to join our relaxed group! No homework, all fun.

Teen & Adult Super Smash Brothers Tournament
1/26, 1-5 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Show your skills in this bracketed 1v1 tournament for ages 13-adult on the new Nintendo Switch! Sign up for your slot at 757.259.4050.

Check out all this month’s great kids events and more at www.wrl.org/kids.

Featured Events for Adults

Herbal Remedies
1/26, 2 p.m.
James City County Library
Maureen Anderson from Tasha’s Own comes to talk about the healing powers of herbs.

Beginning Meditation
1/8, 2 p.m., James City County Library
Patti DeBlass will teach you the fundamentals of meditation. Learn to quiet your mind and find inner peace.

Italian Film Series: My Italian Secret
1/8, 6:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library
This film recounts how WWII bicycling idol Gino Bartali, physician Giovanni Borromeo, and other Italians worked with Jewish leaders and officials of the Catholic Church to defy the Nazis and save thousands of Italy’s Jews.

Celtic Film Series: Agnes Browne
1/17, 7 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Faced with the daunting task of supporting seven children by herself, Irish widow Agnes Browne (Angelica Huston) struggles to break even. Eventually, hope materializes when she’s invited to a concert as the date of a smitten Frenchman.

Getaway Café
1/18, 2 p.m., James City County Library
Share conversation, experiences, and memories in WRL’s program for adults with early memory loss and their care partners. This month, a representative from the Muscarelle Art Museum will be our special guest.

Jewish Film Festival: An Act of Defiance
1/20, 2 p.m., Williamsburg Library
When ten men are arrested for conspiring against the repressive Apartheid-era South African government, Bram Fisher steps up to the challenge as lead counsel. Political leader Nelson Mandela is also on trial, and he urges his fellow defendants to shine light on the systemic corruption against the African people.

Taiji Fan Workshop
1/23, 2 p.m., Stryker Center
This fun, fitness-oriented activity is based on the traditional movements of martial arts. Register at 757.259.4050.

New Computer, Tablet, or Ereader? We Can Help!

If you are like millions of Americans, you may have received a new technological gadget this holiday season -- but do you really know how to get the most out of it?

WRL has a wide variety of free digital content that you can access through a computer, tablet, ereader, or smart television set with just a few clicks of a button. Whether you want to download audiobooks, stream music and movies, check out ebooks, or even flip through the full-color pages of a virtual magazine, we can help. Just head over to www.wrl.org and start browsing through the "What We Have" tab -- you’ll find a world of digital content is right at your fingertips!

Need a little more help to learn the basics of operating your new gadget? WRL also offers numerous classes each month about how to use various computers, tablets, and ereaders.

From covering computer basics to helping you better navigate our digital collections, we have a class for you. Let 2019 be the year you unlock the full potential of your devices, all with a little help from WRL!

Adult Winter Reading
Winter is a great time to put your feet up and read! Start your year off right with our Adult Winter Reading program. Beginning January 1, readers who log 5 books will receive a 16-ounce "WRL Reads" mug, plus a Scratch and Win ticket for another prize. Every scratch ticket is a winner, and prizes range from a delicious treat to an evening of outstanding performances.

Readers can use Beanstack (wrl.beanstack.org) to register and track their books. We also have paper logs available at the Adult Services desks and Mobile Library Services vehicles. Turn your log in by February 28 to collect your mug and prize. Each participant is only eligible for one mug and ticket. Happy reading!

Find all of this month’s library programs & classes at www.wrl.org/events.

The Winter 2019 season of the Dewey Decibel Concert Series kicks off on 1/13 with Robin and Linda Williams. These talented musicians perform a robust blend of bluegrass, folk, old-time, and acoustic country that combines wryly observant lyrics with a wide-ranging melodicism. Join us at 7:30 p.m. at the Williamsburg Library -- tickets are $5 for general admission.

Check out all this month’s great teen events and more at www.wrl.org/teens.